



# ENVIRONMENTAL BULLETIN

Winter 2009-2010

*A quarterly news bulletin to provide project managers and district environmental staff with current permit requirements, training opportunities and other environmental information.*

## STORMWATER/EROSION CONTROL

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With work slowed ever so slightly, now may be a good time to review your project and ensure that all of the environmental documentation is in order and erosion controls are appropriate for the site conditions. Consider the following things:

- Are inspection reports current and complete? During the winter season, when the ground is frozen or snow covered, inspections must continue but can be reduced to monthly and after every ½ inch of rain. If monthly inspections can be conducted during periods of snowmelt that may provide a more accurate evaluation of the site. Be sure to take credit for all your stormwater management efforts, no matter how minor.
- Is the temporary erosion control plan current? This means that the plan matches what is installed in the field. BMP installation/removal dates as well as dates of grading activities should be recorded in the SWPPP along with the locations of things such as concrete wash out facilities, hazardous material storage, portable toilets, construction exits, fueling stations, equipment storage, etc. If one of these items is re-located on the project (fueling station), cross it off, date it, and note the new location.
- Is there a particular area on the project that is a constant problem? For example, the same section of silt fence blows out after every rainfall. If so, that should be a red flag indicating additional controls are needed throughout the site. Constantly repairing the same failed BMP is not demonstrating stormwater compliance. Instead the site may require mulch, cover crop and/or ditch checks to alleviate the pressure on the silt fence. Silt fence is typically the last line of defense and when used alone is prone to failure. Lastly, remember to document, document and document all the changes made!
- Has a spill prevention plan been provided and included with the SWPPP? Are there materials on site to manage minor spills?
- Is there an open line of communication between contractor and project staff and are stormwater issues handled in a timely fashion? Under normal weather conditions the stormwater permit allows for 7 days to address corrective actions. A copy of the stormwater inspection report should be distributed to the appropriate personnel ASAP to get the ball rolling and to avoid exceeding the 7 day allowance. Working together, sharing ideas on simple solutions and documenting all the actions will ultimately keep the site in compliance.
- Refer to the *Construction Stormwater Best Management Practices* (Pocket Guide) for information on appropriate BMPs for stormwater management. Additional copies are available from the Roadside Stabilization office at any time and can also be downloaded from the Department website at: <http://www.nebraskatransportation.org/environment/guides-plans-hndbks.html>

Contact the Roadside Stabilization Office with any questions and/or comments regarding the stormwater program. Feedback from field personnel allows us to make the necessary changes to move forward.

Contact Information: Ron Poe: -- (402) 479-4499, Gabe Robertson – (402) 479-4685

## VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

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### Spring Seed Orders

The Roadside Stabilization Unit will begin gathering spring seed orders soon. Start thinking about maintenance projects, bare spots and other areas requiring seed (shoulder mixture OR foreslope, ditch, and backslope mixture). We'll need to know how many acres-worth of each seed mixture you'll need.

Ordering seed all at one time helps the Department save some bucks. Purchase orders are needed for seed; fertilizer is ordered directly through the Supply Inventory System. Carol Wienhold will send out the request for orders in early February.

## THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

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### Tree/Shrub Removal - Now Is The Time!!

If you have any tree/shrub removal to do, now is the time. Nesting season starts again on April 1. After that date all trees/shrubs slated for removal will need to be surveyed. Removing the vegetation now saves everyone time because the District can do so without any surveys.

### Projects Resuming This Spring

Work on several projects has been suspended for the winter. If your project included Conservation Conditions for threatened and endangered species, please email Eric Zach prior to resuming work. He will help determine what conditions should be carried out when construction starts again.

Contact Information: Eric Zach – (402) 479-4766

## UPCOMING TRAINING

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### NDOR Certified Erosion and Sediment Control for Inspectors Course

- March 16<sup>th</sup>, NDOR District 5 Headquarters, Scottsbluff
- March 18<sup>th</sup>, Mahoney State Park, Ashland

Contact Ron Poe at (402) 479-4499 or Dennis Smith with LTAP at (402) 472-0976 for more information. Course information is also available on the LTAP website at:

[http://www.ne-ltap.unl.edu/erosion\\_control.html](http://www.ne-ltap.unl.edu/erosion_control.html)